

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8305

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1834

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP PINT US HA  
SUBJ: LUCIEN RIGAUD CASE

1. A NEW CHAPTER OF THE LUCIEN RIGAUD SAGA BEGAN THIS WEEK WHEN THE GOH BROUGHT TO TRIAL A GROUP OF HAITIANS ACCUSED OF FRAUDULENT SALES OF CEMENT. A PRINCIPAL DEFENDANT IN THE CASE IS ANTONIO DUPUY WHO SOUGHT AND WAS GRANTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY ON MARCH 6, 1977 TOGETHER WITH LUCIEN RIGAUD. DUPUY LEFT THE PROTECTION OF THE EMBASSY ON MAY 3, 1978 AFTER NEGOTIATING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS WITH HAITIAN AUTHORITIES. NEITHER WE NOR THE MEXICANS KNOW THE SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DUPUY AND THE GOH, HOWEVER, DUPUY MUST HAVE RECEIVED CONVINCING ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL SOON BE A FREE MAN. THE MEXICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TELLS US THAT HE HAS RECEIVED STRONG HINTS THAT, IF FOUND GUILTY, DUPUY WILL BE PARDONED ON JULY 3, PRESIDENT DUVALIER'S BIRTHDAY.

2. DUPUY'S DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY WAS WITNESSED BY THREE AMBASSADORS OF THE LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS AFTER HE SIGNED A STATEMENT THAT HE WAS ACTING ON HIS OWN FREE WILL AND UNDER NO PRESSURE OF ANY KIND. HE LEFT IN THE COMPANY OF AN OFFICIAL OF THE HAITIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND WAS RETURNED TO THE NATIONAL PENITENTIARY. THE TRIAL BEGAN MAY 8,  
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CONTINUED MAY 9, AND WILL RESUME AGAIN ON MAY 11. ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE SECOND DAY DUPUY WAS ASKED A QUESTION ABOUT THE CASE BY THE JUDGE AND HE LAUNCHED INTO A LONG TIRADE AGAINST LUCIEN RIGAUD WHICH HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CASE AT HAND. THE JUDGE MADE NO EFFORT TO INTERRUPT HIM AND A JOURNALIST COVERING THE TRIAL REPORTS THAT THE OUTBURST WAS OBVIOUSLY PREARRANGED.

3. MUCH OF DUPUY'S DIATRIBE IN CREOLE (HE DOES NOT SPEAK FRENCH) WAS BROADCAST VERBATIM ON THE EVENING NEWS. AN EDITED ACCOUNT WAS PUBLISHED IN THE SAMI-OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DAILY LE NOUVEAU MONDE THIS MORNING (MAY 10). DUPUY CLAIMED HE WAS FORCED TO JOIN RIGAUD IN HIS ESCAPE WHICH WAS MASTERMINDED BY RIGAUD'S WIFE AND FRIEND, FRANTZ LEROY. HE SAID HE WAS ALSO FORCED TO SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM AT THE EMBASSY ALTHOUGH HE HAD NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS. (NO MENTION WAS MADE, OF COURSE, OF DUPUY'S ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION FOR SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM, I.E., THAT HE COULD NOT HOPE TO GET JUSTICE BECAUSE SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS WERE HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS IN THE CEMENT SCANDAL.) DUPUY WENT ON TO ACCUSE RIGAUD OF MULTITUDE OF SINS INCLUDING AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR. HE SAID THAT RIGAUD RECEIVED VISITS IN ASYLUM FROM AMERICANS INCLUDING EMBASSY AND CIA REPRESENTATIVES. RIGAUD ALSO MET AND SPOKE WITH NUMEROUS JOURNALISTS FROM THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO DUPUY.

4. COMMENT: PRIOR TO THE "TESTIMONY" OF DUPUY IN PUBLIC COURT WE ENTERTAINED SOME SLIGHT HOPE THAT THE GOH, BY DEMONSTRATING LENIENCY WHEN DUPUY AGREED TO RETURN TO HAITIAN JURISDICTION, WOULD CONVINCE RIGAUD TO FOLLOW SUIT. YESTERDAY'S PERFORMANCE CONFIRMS, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOH IS SO INCENSED BY RIGAUD'S ENDLESS MACHINATIONS THAT IT HAS

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DECIDED TO RESPOND. COMPROMISE IS NOW NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE AND RIGAUD FACES THE PROSPECT OF WAITING INDEFINITELY FOR HIS LAISSER-PASSER.

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## Message Attributes

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